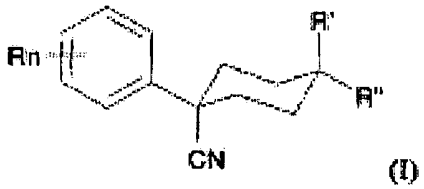
Serial No.: 10/030,718
Group Art Unit No.: 1625

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I)



(I)

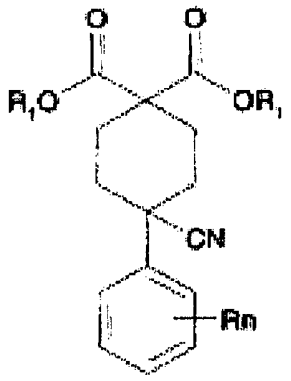
where

R is halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with 1 to 4 halogens, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkenyl, -O-$(CH_2)_m$cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbons;

n is 1-5;

~~M~~ m is 0 – 6; and

one of R' or R" is hydrogen and the other is CO(O)X where X is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl



(A)

which process comprises decarboxylating the diacid or diester of Formula (A) where each R_1 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl-ester forming group of 1-6 carbon atoms and R and n are the same as for Formula (I) by treating the diacid or diester with about 1 equivalent of a base, about 3 equivalents of water and about 3 equivalents of an alkali salt in a suitable solvent and heated to between about 100 to 150°C for about 4-8 hours.

2. (Cancelled)

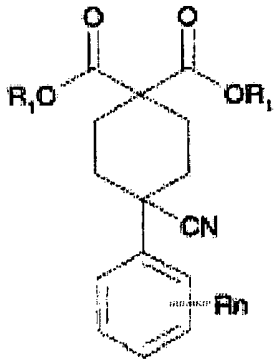
3. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein R_1 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl and the base is pyridine and the salt is lithium chloride.

4. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein n ~~is~~ in R_n is 2 and one group is substituted at the 3 position and the other group is substituted at the 4 position of the benzene ring of formula (I).

5. (Previously amended) The process of claim 1 wherein R_1 is methyl, one of R_n is methoxy, -O-CF_3, -O-CHF_2, or –O-CH_2CHF_2 and the other is C $_{4-6}$cycloalkyloxy.

6. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein n ~~is~~ in R_n is 2 and one is 3-cylopentyloxy and a second Rn group is 4-methoxy.

7. (Original)A compound of formula (A)



(A)

wherein

R is halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with 1 to 4 halogens, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkenyl, -O-$(CH_2)_m$cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbons;

n is 1-5;

m is 0 – 6;

R1 is hydrogen or a C_{1-6}alkyl-ester forming group of 1-6 carbon atoms.

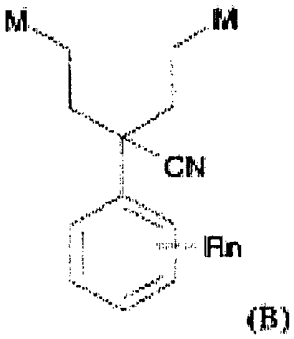
8. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 7 wherein n ~~is~~ in R_n is 2 and R_n is methoxy, -O-CF_3, -O-CHF_2, or –O-CH_2CHF_2 and the other is C_{4-6}cycloalkyloxy.

9. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 7 wherein n ~~is~~ in Rn is 2 and one is 3-cyclopentyloxy and a second Rn group is 4-methoxy.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (B) ~~according to claim 10~~



(B)

wherein n in R_n is 2 and one R_n group is 3-cyclopentyloxy and the second R_n group is 4-methoxy and M is OH, an activated hydroxyl group, or halo.

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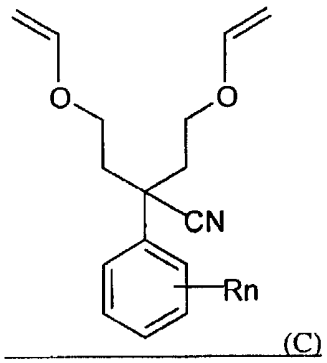
13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A compound ~~according to claim 13~~ of formula C

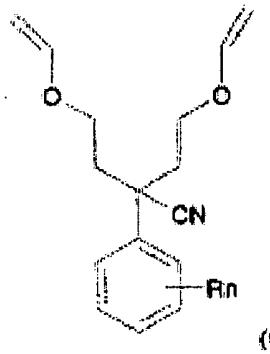


(C)

wherein n ~~is~~ in R_n is 2 and one is 3-cyclopentyloxy and a second Rn group is 4-methoxy.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of Formula (I) according to claim 1, which process comprises



(C)

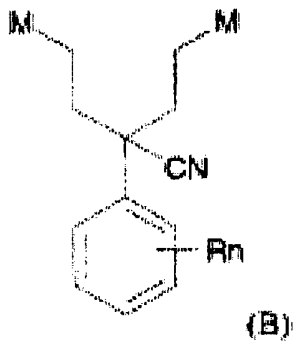
a. converting the vinylethyl ether of Formula (C)

R is halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with 1 to 4 halogens, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkenyl, -O-$(CH_2)_m$cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbons;

n is 1-5;

m is 0 – 6;

to a compound of Formula (B)



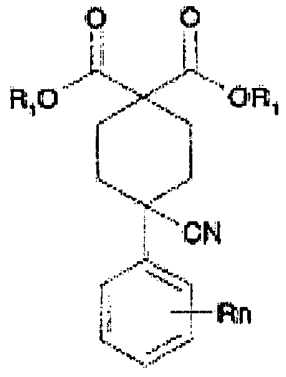
(B)

where M is OH,

b. converting the hydroxyl group of Formula (B) to a compound of Formula (B) where M is a tosylate, mesylate or a triflate,

c. converting the tosylate, mesylate or triflate in Formula (B) to a compound of Formula (B) where M is halo,

d. treating the di-halo compound with dialkyl malonate to obtain a compound of Formula (A)



(A)

where R_1 is lower alkyl,

e. optionally saponfying the diseater of Formula (A) to obtain a compound of Formula (A) where R_1 is hydrogen, and

f. decarboxylating a compound of Formula (A) where R_1 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl to obtain a compound for Formula (I) where one of R' is hydrogen and the other is CO(O)X where X is C_{1-6}alkyl or hydrogen.

18. (Currently amended) The process of claim 17 wherein n ~~is~~ is R_n is 2 and R_n is methoxy, -O-CF_3, -O-CHF_2, or -O-CH_2CHF_2 and the other is C_{4-6}cycloalkyloxy, M is tosylate and thereafter iodo, and R1 is methyl or ethyl.

19. (Currently amended) The process of claim 17 wherein n ~~is~~ is R_n is 2 and one is 3-cyclopentyloxy and the second is 4-methoxy.